

Schools debate: Gifted and talented, or racist and elitist?

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Communities across the United States are reconsidering their approach to gifted and talented programs in schools as vocal parents blame such elite programs for worsening racial segregation and inequities in the country's education system.

A plan announced by New York City's mayor to phase out elementary school gifted and talented programs in the country's largest school district — if it proceeds — would be among the most significant developments yet in a push that extends from Boston to Seattle and that has stoked passions and pain over race, inequality and access to a decent education. From the start, gifted and talented school programs drew worries they would produce an educational caste system in U.S. public schools. Many of the exclusive programs trace their origins to efforts to stanch "white flight" from public schools, particularly in diversifying urban areas, by providing high-caliber educational programs that could compete with private or parochial schools.

Continued on next page



In this Thursday Oct. 14, 2021, file photo, protesters at City Hall condemn Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to phase out the Gifted and Talented (G&T) public school program in New York.

Associated Press



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Continued from Front

Increasingly, parents and school boards are grappling with difficult questions over equity, as they discuss how to accommodate the educational aspirations of advanced learners while nurturing other students so they can equally thrive. It's a quandary that is driving the debate over whether to expand gifted and talented programs or abolish them altogether.

"I get the burn-it-down and tear-it-down mentality, but what do we replace it with?" asked Marcia Gentry, a professor of education and the director of the Gifted Education Research and Resource Institute at



In this Thursday Oct. 14, 2021, file photo, protesters at City Hall condemn Mayor Bill de Blasio's plan to phase out the Gifted and Talented (G&T) public school program in New York.

Associated Press

Purdue University.

Gentry coauthored a study two years ago that used

federal data to catalogue the stark racial disparities in gifted and talented programs.

It noted that U.S. schools identified 3.3 million students as gifted and talented but that an additional 3.6 million should have been similarly designated. The additional students missing from those rolls, her study said, were disproportionately Black, Latino and Indigenous students.

Nationwide, 8.1% of white and 12.7% of Asian American children in public schools are considered gifted, compared with 4.5% of Hispanic and 3.5% of Black students, according to an Associated Press analysis of the most recent federal data.

Gifted and talented programs aim to provide outlets for students who feel intellectually constrained by the instruction offered to their peers. Critics of the push to eliminate them say it punishes high achievers and cuts off a prized opportunity for advancement, particularly for low-income families without ac-

cess to private enrichment programs.

In Seattle, a schools superintendent who left her job in May sought to do away with the district's Highly Capable Cohort program, as the district's gifted and talented program is called, blaming it for causing de facto segregation. In its own recent analysis, Seattle public schools found only 0.9% of Black children had been identified as gifted, compared with 12.6% of its white students.

The school board has approved changes that will do away with eligibility testing and make all grade schoolers automatically eligible for consideration for advanced instruction. In addition to grades, the selection committee will consider testimonials from teachers, family and community members.

The changes don't go far enough for critics like Rita Green, the education chair of the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP. She has called for more work to build environments that nurture the intellectual development of all the district's 50,000 schoolchildren.

"We want the program just abolished. Period. The Highly Capable Cohort program is fundamentally flawed, and it's inherently racist," Green said.

Debates over the criteria for admission to advanced courses and elite schools predate the latest national discussion about racial inequities, but have intensified since the killing of George Floyd.

In Boston, the school committee voted this summer to expand eligibility to its exclusive exam schools

and guarantee spots to high-achieving students from poor and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Latino students account for roughly 42% of Boston's 53,000 public school students -- about twice the number as whites -- but are vastly underrepresented in advanced courses. By the district's account, fewer than 20% of the fourth graders invited to participate in advanced work classes were Latino, while 43% of those invited were white.

Many children are overlooked because of language and cultural barriers, said Iván Espinoza-Madrigal, the executive director of Boston's Lawyers for Civil Rights. Subconscious bias among teachers who nominate students for the program also play a role, he said.

Elsewhere, the renowned Lowell High School in San Francisco in February scrapped admissions exams in favor of a lottery system. In Fairfax County, Virginia, parents recently lost a legal bid to undo their school district's decision to do away with testing for admissions to a campus catering to high achievers in science and technology. Most gifted and talented programs have relied on tests to determine eligibility, with some families spending thousands of dollars on tutoring and expensive specialized programs to boost scores and increase their children's chances of getting a coveted spot.

Controversy over admissions into advanced education programs has simmered in other cities, including Los Angeles and Chicago. □

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Cuomo accused of forcible touching in criminal complaint

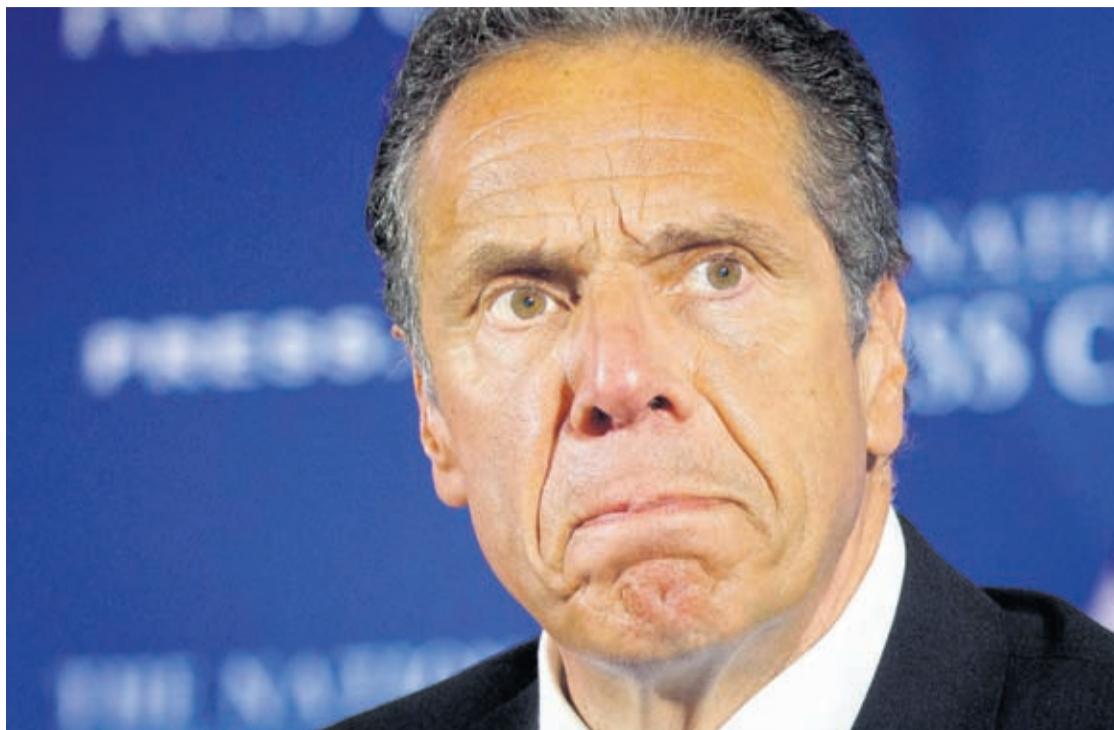
By MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A criminal complaint filed by a police investigator with a court in Albany has accused former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo of committing a misdemeanor sex crime, though there was confusion Thursday over whether the document was submitted in error.

The one-page complaint, filed by an investigator with the Albany County Sheriff's Office, accused Cuomo of putting his hand under a woman's shirt on Dec. 7, 2020. The document didn't name the woman but Cuomo had been publicly accused of groping an aide, Brittany Comisso, at the executive mansion in Albany last year around that date.

Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple did not return messages. The office of the county's district attorney, David Soares, which would handle any prosecution and was involved in the investigation, issued a statement saying it had been caught off guard by the filing.

"Like the rest of the public, we were surprised to learn today that a criminal



This Wednesday May 27, 2020 file photo shows New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo during a news conference in Washington.

Associated Press

complaint was filed in Albany City Court by the Albany County Sheriff's Office against Andrew Cuomo," it said. "The Office of Court Administration has since made that filing public. Our office will not be commenting further on this case." The Times Union, of Albany, quoted unnamed officials as saying the complaint had been issued "prematurely" and that a final decision hadn't been made about whether Cuomo

would face charges. Cuomo's lawyer and spokesperson didn't immediately return messages seeking comment. A lawyer for Comisso also didn't return a message. Comisso, who was an executive assistant for Cuomo, says he reached under her shirt and fondled her when they were alone in a room at the governor's mansion in Albany. She said Cuomo pulled her in for a hug as she pre-

pared to leave his office at the mansion. When she told him, "you're going to get us in trouble," Cuomo replied, "I don't care," and slammed the door shut, according to her account. Comisso said Cuomo slid his hand up her blouse and grabbed her breast. Cuomo has adamantly denied groping her, saying once, "I would have to lose my mind to do such a thing."

The crime of forcible touch-

ing is punishable in New York by up to a year in jail and up to three years probation, with discretion for the court to impose lesser penalties including no jail time.

The Associated Press doesn't usually identify alleged sexual assault victims unless they decide to tell their stories publicly, as Comisso has done in newspaper and television interviews.

Comisso filed a complaint with the county sheriff in August in the same week a report from state Attorney General Letitia James concluded the Democratic governor sexually harassed 11 women and worked to retaliate against one of his accusers. Other accusations outlined in the report range from planting unwanted kisses to asking unwelcome personal questions about sex and dating. Cuomo announced his resignation a week after the release of the blistering report, marking a dramatic downfall for the third-term governor who had been seen as a beacon of sturdy competence during his daily COVID-19 briefings in 2020. He attacked the attorney general's report as inaccurate and biased. □

U.S. road deaths spiked 18% in 2021's first half to 20,160

DETROIT (AP) — The number of U.S. traffic deaths in the first half of 2021 hit 20,160, the highest first-half total since 2006, the government reported Thursday.

The estimated number was 18.4% higher than the first half of last year, prompting Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to call the increase an unacceptable crisis.

The department, which includes the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, announced that it will develop a national strategy for steps to save lives on the roads.

"We cannot and should not accept these fatalities as simply a part of everyday life in America,"

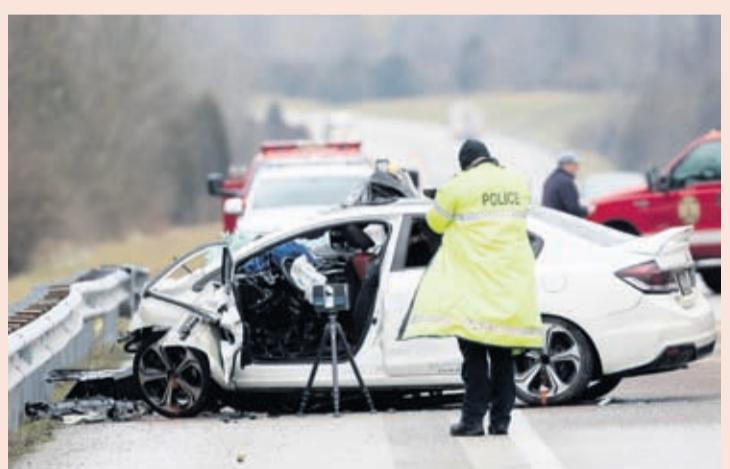
Buttigieg said in a statement Thursday. "No one will accomplish this alone. It will take all levels of government, industries, advocates, engineers and communities across the country working together toward the day when family members no longer have to say good-bye to loved ones because of a traffic crash."

NHTSA also said that behavioral research from March through June showed that speeding and traveling without a seat belt remain higher than before the coronavirus pandemic. The agency in the past has blamed increasing road deaths on more reckless behavior on the roads.

The increase came as people drove more as pandemic shutdowns eased. Preliminary data from the Federal Highway Administration show that vehicle miles traveled in the first six months of the year rose by 173.1 billion miles, around a 13% increase from the previous year.

The death rate for the first half of this year rose to 1.34 per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. It's up from 1.28 deaths per 100 million miles in the first half of 2020, the agency said.

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Steven Cliff urged drivers to slow down, wear seat belts, drive sober and avoid distractions. "All of us must work together to stop aggressive, dan-



In this Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, file photo, emergency crews work the scene of a fatal crash involving a charter bus and car on the AA highway in Campbell County, Ky.

Associated Press

gerous driving," he said. The DOT said in a statement its strategy would follow a "safe system approach" to road safety that identifies safety ac-

tion for drivers, roads, vehicles, speeds and post-crash medical care. The strategy will be released in January, the department's statement said. □

U.S. to pay \$88M to families, victims of SC church massacre

By MEG KENNARD

WASHINGTON (AP) — Families of nine victims killed in a racist attack at a Black South Carolina church have reached a settlement with the Justice Department over a faulty background check that allowed Dylann Roof to purchase the gun he used in the 2015 massacre.

The Justice Department will pay \$88 million, which includes \$63 million for the families of the nine people killed and \$25 million for five survivors who were inside the church at the time of the shooting, it was announced Thursday.

Bakari Sellers, an attorney who helped broker the agreement, told The Associated Press the "88" figure was purposeful. It's a number typically associated with white supremacy and the number of bullets Roof said he had taken with him to the attack.

"We've given a big 'F you' to white supremacy and racism," Sellers told the AP. "We're doing that by building generational wealth in these Black communities, from one of the most horrific race crimes in the country."

According to the Justice Department, settlements for the families of those killed range from \$6 million



Bakari Sellers, the attorney for the families of victims killed in the 2015 Mother Emanuel AME Church massacre, speaks with reporters outside the Justice Department, in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021.

Associated Press

to \$7.5 million per claimant. Survivors' settlements are \$5 million per claimant.

Months before the June 17, 2015 church shooting, Roof was arrested on Feb. 28 by Columbia, South Carolina police on the drug possession charge. But a series of clerical errors and missteps allowed Roof to buy the handgun he later used in the massacre.

The errors included wrongly listing the sheriff's office as

the arresting agency in the drug case, according to court documents. An examiner with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System found some information on the arrest but needed more to deny the sale, so she sent a fax to a sheriff's office. The sheriff's office responded it didn't have the report, directing her to the Columbia police. Under the system's operating procedures, the exam-

iner was directed to a federal listing of law enforcement agencies, but Columbia police did not appear on the list. After trying the separate West Columbia Police Department and being told it was the wrong agency, the examiner did nothing more.

After a three-day waiting period, Roof went back to a West Columbia store to pick up the handgun.

The lawsuit for a time was

thrown out, with a judge writing that an examiner followed procedures but also blasting the federal government for what he called its "abysmally poor policy choices" in how it runs the national database for firearm background checks. The suit was subsequently reinstated by a federal appeals court.

"The mass shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church was a horrific hate crime that caused immeasurable suffering for the families of the victims and the survivors," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. "Since the day of the shooting, the Justice Department has sought to bring justice to the community, first by a successful hate crime prosecution and today by settling civil claims."

In 2017, Roof became the first person in the U.S. sentenced to death for a federal hate crime. Authorities have said Roof opened fire during the Bible study at the church, raining down dozens of bullets on those assembled. He was 21 at the time.

The slain included the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, pastor of the AME Emanuel Church, a state senator, as well as other pillars of the community. □

Florida sues Biden over contractor vaccine mandate



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks at a news conference, Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021, at the Broward Health Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — The state of Florida on Thursday sued President Joe Biden's administration

over its coronavirus vaccine mandate for federal contractors, opening yet another battleground between Republican Gov.

Ron DeSantis and the White House.

The lawsuit, announced by DeSantis at a news conference, alleges the president doesn't have the authority to issue the rule and that it violates procurement law. DeSantis has vowed legal action over federal vaccination requirements and fought masking and vaccine rules implemented by local governments in Florida. He recently announced he would call state lawmakers to the Capitol next month to pass legislation to combat vaccine mandates enacted by private businesses. DeSantis is eyeing a possible 2024 presidential run and has been consistent in his

criticism of Biden's handling of the pandemic and other issues.

The case was filed in U.S. District Court in Tampa and names Biden, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson as well as White House contracting officials as defendants.

In addition to a vaccine mandate for federal contractors, which is set to go into effect in December, Biden has also announced that private employers with 100 or more workers will have to require them to be vaccinated or tested weekly. The roughly 17 million workers at health facilities that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid also will have to be fully vaccinated. Additional details

on the policies are expected to be released soon.

Biden has argued that the sweeping mandates will help end a pandemic that has claimed the lives of more than 740,000 Americans.

But Republicans nationwide have opposed the vaccination requirements and have threatened to bring similar legal challenges. On Wednesday, 21 Republican state attorneys general sent a letter to the president saying they think his vaccination mandate for federal contractors "stands on shaky legal ground," is confusing to contractors and could exacerbate supply-chain problems. □

France fines British boats as fishing dispute escalates

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain said Thursday it would summon the French ambassador for a dressing-down, the latest move in a worsening dispute over fishing licenses that has stoked tensions following the U.K.'s departure from the European Union. After French authorities fined two British fishing vessels and kept one in port overnight, Britain warned it would retaliate if French officials followed through on threats to block British boats from some French ports and tighten checks on U.K. vessels unless French vessels get more permits to fish in U.K. waters. France also suggested it might restrict energy supplies to the Channel Islands, British Crown dependencies that lie off the coast of France. "We believe these are disappointing and disproportionate, and not what we'd expect from a close ally and partner," U.K. Environment Secretary George Eustice told lawmakers, as Britain accused France of raising tensions.

Eustice said the threatened measures "do not appear to be compatible" with the Brexit divorce deal agreed



In this Thursday, May 6, 2021 file photo, fishing vessels at sea off the coast of Jersey.

Associated Press

by Britain and the EU "or wider international law, and if carried through will be met with an appropriate and calibrated response." The reference to international law is sure to irk French officials, since EU nations have accused the U.K. of threatening to break the legally binding Brexit agreement it signed with the bloc setting out the conditions of its departure. The U.K. government said

France's ambassador, Catherine Colonna, would be summoned to the Foreign Office, in an official sign of displeasure. "We regret the confrontational language that has been consistently used by the French government on this issue, which makes this situation no easier to resolve," the British government said in a statement. Since the U.K. left the economic orbit of the EU in

January, relations between London and Paris have become increasingly frayed as the nations on either side of the English Channel sort out a post-Brexit path. France vehemently protested the decision last month by the U.K. and the Channel Island of Jersey to refuse dozens of French fishing boats licenses to operate in their territorial waters. Dozens of other licenses were granted. France says the

restrictions are contrary to the post-Brexit agreement that Britain signed when it left the EU.

After weeks of negotiations, British authorities have issued more fishing licenses, but the number still only accounts for 50% of what France believes it "is entitled to," French government spokesman Gabriel Attal said Wednesday.

"We have worked with the British, we gave them all the requested data, documents, information to back these (license) requests," Attal said. "Our patience has reached its limits."

Britain disputes that. The government says it has granted 98% of fishing license applications from European vessels, but there is a dispute over 31 boats that the U.K. says did not supply evidence to support their applications.

It was against this backdrop that French authorities fined the two British boats, one for failing to comply with checks by police and the other for not holding a proper license. The French Sea Ministry said the fines resulted from bolstered boating and license checks. □

Report: Dutch govt missing climate targets, must act faster

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — The Dutch government must urgently take more action to rein in emissions of greenhouse gases, an independent advisory body said Thursday, warning that climate targets set by the government are currently "out of sight." The report by the Council of State on the government's climate policies was published just days before the start of a U.N. climate summit in Glasgow that is seen by many scientists and activists as a final opportunity to make carbon-cutting commitments that could keep global warming within manageable limits.

The Council of State's annual look on Dutch climate policy had a blunt message for the country's

caretaker government. "The nature and scale of the climate crisis make immediate action necessary," it said. "The climate crisis is not something for the future, but is already in full swing."

A separate report analyzing Dutch climate legislation also said the government is set to miss its own target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 49% in 2030 compared to 1990 levels. The Climate and Energy Outlook 2021, drawn up by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, based its prediction on current policies to tackle emissions and others that have been proposed.

"Dutch greenhouse gas emissions are expected to decrease by between

38% and 48% in 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This means that the government's emission reduction target of 49% by 2030 is not yet in view," the outlook said. The government said the predictions had not taken into account a 7 billion euro (\$8.1 billion) investment in more measures to cut emissions that was announced last month. But it conceded that its 2030 target "most likely won't be achieved" and said agreed that extra measures are necessary to meet its own and European Union emission-cutting targets.

The Dutch branch of Greenpeace blamed the country's continuing use of coal-fired power stations, its large airports and the number of livestock on



In this Monday, Oct. 4, 2021, file photo, Dutch riot police prepare to board Greenpeace's Beluga II when breaking up a protest by climate activists at a Shell refinery in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Associated Press

farms for the nation's failure to meet emissions targets.

"We are totally unsurprised that the Cabinet is not hitting its own climate targets," tweeted Green-

peace climate and energy expert Dewi Zloch. "Year after year, the climate policy doesn't get a pass mark" in the Environmental Assessment Agency report. □

U.S. imposes sanctions on 2 Lebanese contractors, lawmaker

By BASSEM MROUE

BEIRUT (AP) — The U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions Thursday on two Lebanon businessmen and a lawmaker, saying they have profited from corruption while the country struggles through its worst economic crisis in modern history.

The two businessmen, Jihad al-Arab and Dany Khoury, are influential contractors in Lebanon who have taken over major infrastructure contracts in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon in recent years. Jamil el-Sayyed, a former security chief and a current member of parliament also sanctioned Thursday, is an ally of the militant Hezbollah group.

The sanctions were a clear warning from Washington to Lebanon's political class that has failed to implement reforms two years after the crisis began with nationwide protests.

The U.S. has targeted Hezbollah officials and institutions over the years and more recently imposed sanctions on politicians allied with the group. Thursday's move was rare, since it is the first time a businessman has been targeted who is not an ally of Hezbollah.

Al-Arab, dubbed by some in Lebanon as the "contractor of the republic," is close to former Prime Minister Saad Hariri who resigned



In this Sept. 18, 2010 file photo, Jamil el-Sayyed a former security chief and current member of parliament, who is an ally of the militant Hezbollah group, speaks to journalists on his arrival to Rafik Hariri International Airport, in Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday Sept. 18, 2010.

Associated Press

from his post in October 2019 following nationwide protests against corruption. The third man sanctioned, Khoury, is close to President Michel Aoun's powerful son-in-law, Gebran Bassil, who himself is under U.S. sanctions.

The Treasury Department said each of the three have "personally profited from the pervasive corruption and cronyism in Lebanon, enriching themselves at the expense of the Lebanese people and state institutions."

It said the three are being designated pursuant to an executive order which targets people contributing to the breakdown of the rule of law in Lebanon.

Lebanon is being hit by its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history in what the World Bank has described as one of the worst in the world since the 1850s. The Lebanese pound has lost more than 90% of its value and more than 70% of the population now lives in poverty.

The crisis is mostly the result

of widespread corruption and mismanagement by a political class that has run the small nation of 6 million people, including 1 million Syrian refugees, since 1990, the end of the country's civil war.

"The Lebanese people deserve an end to the endemic corruption perpetuated by businessmen and politicians who have driven their country into an unprecedented crisis," said Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control Andrea M. Gacki.

The statement said that because of close political connections, al-Arab has been awarded multiple public contracts in exchange for kickback payments to government officials. It said among the contracts al-Arab won was a deal in 2016 in which he received a \$288 million from a government development arm to build a landfill after garbage filled the streets of Beirut. Three years later, the statement said, the garbage situation remained urgent.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken tweeted that the sanctions are an important step in promoting accountability in Lebanon. He added that Lebanese officials "must end corruption and take urgent action to address the crises the Lebanese people face."

In June, al-Arab announced that he will close all his business in Lebanon, saying his companies and family are being subjected to an "illegitimate campaign of fabrications." His announcement came days after his daughters were verbally attacked by anti-corruption protesters in Beirut.

The Treasury Department said Khoury has been the recipient of large public contracts that have reaped him millions of dollars while failing to meaningfully fulfill the terms of those contracts. □

German security officials warn of far-right border patrols



A federal police officer guards an arrested migrant at a police station on the German border town with Poland in Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany, Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021.

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German security officials are warning far-right groups not to carry out vigilante patrols along the country's eastern border with Poland, amid a rise in the number of migrants crossing the frontier illegally in recent weeks.

Extremist groups including the far-right "Third Way" and "Free Saxons" party have been using social media to recruit people for their patrols. "The state has the monopoly on the legitimate use of force," said the head of the domestic intelligence agency in Saxony state, Dirk-Martin Christian.

He said the move echoes tactics used by right-wing extremists during the refugee influx in 2015 and 2016, as well as recent anti-lockdown protests.

German authorities have reported an uptick in the number of people illegally entering the country through Poland in recent weeks. On some days, officers have picked up several hundred people a day. Many of those stopped are Iraqi and Syrians who have flown to Belarus and then managed to cross illegally into Poland, from where they made their way to

Germany in the hope of applying for asylum.

Jens Schobrinski, a spokesman for Germany's federal police, said vigilante patrols are hampering officers from doing their work.

"Border surveillance is the job of the state and we are performing that task," he told The Associated Press.

"These stunts by people with right-wing attitudes are absolutely unacceptable and seem intended to undermine the state's monopoly of the use of force," Schobrinski added. "We're taking decisive steps against it." □

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Kids of all ages among migrants in caravan across Mexico

ESCUINTLA, Mexico (AP)

— When a few thousand migrants resumed their walk north through southern Mexico Thursday, the chatter of stroller wheels on pavement accompanied the slap of feet. Still-sleeping children slumped as the caravan lurched forward. Others, still drowsy, perched on parents' shoulders.

The caravan made up of mostly Central American migrants left Tapachula near the Guatemala border on Saturday and roughly doubled in size as it covered the 45 miles (73 kilometers) to Escuintla.

Migrant-rights advocates and aid workers travelling with the caravan estimate there could be 1,000 children among the estimated 4,000 people trudging along highways under a punishing sun.

The scene is reminiscent of larger migrant caravans in 2018 and 2019 that were also full of families with young children. The caravans have offered a less expensive, albeit much slower, way to migrate for families without the money to pay smugglers. They also carry the advantage of safety in numbers.

Laura Benítez with the humanitarian aid organization Global Response Management, said that children account for 40% of those in the caravan that they have given medical treatment to.

"The majority are blisters on feet, chafing," Benítez said. "The children have some little cuts, scrapes and bug bites. Besides that we're giving medicine for headaches, muscle pain, also fever and we're giving (rehydration)." (rehydration solution?) Irineo Mújica, of the immigration advocacy group People without Bor-



Migrants walk along the highway toward the municipality of Escuintla, Chiapas state, Mexico, early Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021, as they continue their journey toward the northern states of Mexico and the U.S. border.

Associated Press

ders, estimated there were between 1,000 and 1,200 children in the caravan. "It is urgent that the Mexican government attend to the children," he said. José Ávila Lagos and his wife Yolanda Melgares bought two strollers in Tapachula before setting out because they're travelling with their three children ages 6, 9 and 15. "(The kids) get hot and tired from walking and you have to bring them in this, Ávila said, indicating to the stroller. "You have to spend."

The truck driver said they left Honduras because of the poverty. The pandemic had made it harder for him to find work.

Ingrid, a Guatemalan woman who declined to give her last name due to safety concerns, said that she was travelling with her whole family — four adults, eight children and a 5-month-old baby.

"We just can't cope, with all the kids. We're from Guatemala, we've already been stuck in Tapachula for two

months," she said.

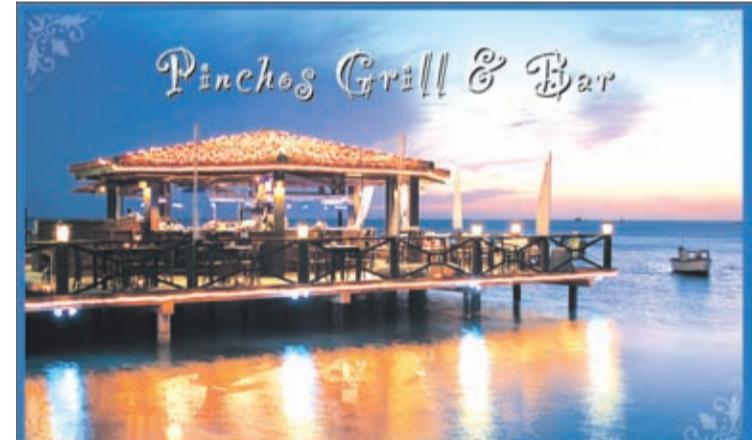
Frustration has been growing for months among the thousands of migrants waiting in Tapachula near the Guatemala border. Mexico's strategy had been to contain migrants in the south, far from the U.S. border while allowing them to apply for asylum in Mexico. But Mexico's asylum system has been overwhelmed and the slow process led many to decide it was not worth waiting.

"We need them to give us free passage; we ask the president to have a heart," Ingrid said while the family rested in the shade of a tree Thursday.

While smaller migrant groups that attempted to walk out of Tapachula recently were broken up by authorities within a couple days, the current caravan is larger and has been walking since Saturday. Authorities tried to block it from leaving Tapachula that day, but since then have not interfered.

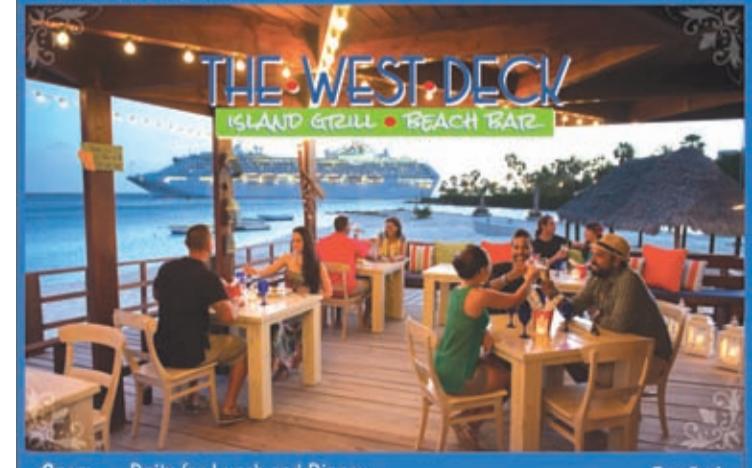
The caravan formed ostensibly as a form of protest and organizers said the goal was to march to Mexico City to pressure the government to resolve the immigration crisis in the south. However, the majority of those walking appear to have their sights set on the United States.

Luis García Villagran, of the Center for Human Dignity, a nongovernmental organization in Tapachula involved in organizing the march, said the plan was to demand everyone receive permanent residency when they arrive in Mexico City. "I think even I want to go to the United States because of the conditions this country is in, so Joe Biden can embrace me," Villagran quipped. □



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Tips for an unforgettable vacation in Aruba!

ORANJESTAD — We know how stressful preparing for a trip can be, that's why we've put together a list of tips for you to take away some of that stress. We want to help make your vacation unforgettable!

Clothes

The weather in Aruba can be pretty hot, so take clothes with you that are not too warm. Keep in mind that there is always a steady breeze in Aruba, making the warm weather bearable. Of course, don't forget your swimwear. At night, the temperature more or less stays the same. For cooler evenings you might want to pack a light sweater, just in case. There is no need to pack your rain jacket. Rain generally passes by relatively quickly; the sun will soon make its appearance again!

Language

Even though the main language in Aruba is Papiamento, most people can speak and understand Dutch and English too.

Many people also speak and understand Spanish.

Money

The currency in Aruba is the florin (Awg. or Afl.), but US dollars are accepted everywhere. You can withdraw both florins and US dollars from several ATMs (not all) if you want to keep using US dollars. Otherwise you need to go to the bank or casino to exchange your money. Most places, like shops and hotels, grant a rate of exchange ranging from Awg. 1.75 to Awg. 1.80 per US dollar.

Getting around

There are several ways to get around on the island. The most convenient way is by car, but you can find other ways to get from point A to point B.

- **Taxi:** A great way to get around is to call a taxi. In Aruba, it's not usual to hail a cab off the street, you will find a taxi parked at most resorts or tourist area. There are lots of different cabs you can call, and they are all fa-

miliar with the places you want to go to. The prices are fixed prices regulated by the government of Aruba. You pay for the cab, not the amount of people.

- **Car rental:** Renting a car is also a safe and easy way to get around on the island. There are dozens of car rentals with good quality cars.
- **Bike rental:** Renting a bike is a bit more dangerous. Since there are no biking lanes, it is harder to get around. You have to ride on the same road as cars do, which can be tricky sometimes.

Rules of the Road

- Drive on the right side of the road.
- There is a predominance of roundabouts instead of traffic lights at major intersections, which is a change that has been implemented in Aruba in recent years.
- Right-hand turns: Right-hand turns are always forbidden on red lights



(unlike in the U.S.).

- Speed Limits: Note that speed limits in Aruba are posted at kilometers per hour.
- Overtaking: Many streets in Aruba are one-way streets, so overtaking should be done with extreme caution.
- Entering vehicles must yield to vehicles that are already in the roundabout. Also, at all intersections, traffic coming from the right has the right of way. The amber light used at traffic lights is to signal caution, as the traffic light is to turn from green to red.
- Seat Belts: Seatbelts must be worn at all times in Aruba.
- Cell Phones: Talking on the phone is illegal while driving in Aruba, and can lead to hefty fines and court action, and even imprisonment. If you want to talk on the phone, you must set your device to hands-free mode.
- Alcohol Use: The maximum permitted blood alcohol level is 50 mg per 100 ml of blood, which means that one drink will take you over the legal limit. So, please call a taxi if you've been drinking.
- Gas/fuel stations: The price of gas is regulated by the government of Aruba and is the same everywhere on the island. You will also be pumping gas in liters, and 1 gallon equals 3.78 liters. Current gas prices are: Gasoline unleaded premium: 221.6 cents p / ltr.
- Diesel LS: 175.8 cents p / ltr.

after swimming. If you're looking to get a nice tan, still use sunscreen. You can use regular sunscreen, or you can use the water resistant aloe vera sunscreen. The aloe vera in sunscreen is locally grown in Aruba. You can find aloe vera everywhere!

Tipping

In Aruba it's not mandatory to tip, but it's your choice if you do so. However, some restaurants and bars add service charge to your bill. Usually, this adds up to about 10 to 15 percent on food and beverages. If you really like the service, you can still tip, of course!

Chargers

You also want to make sure you can charge your phone, camera or laptop. If you're from the USA or Canada, you don't have to worry. Aruba adopted the voltage standard of 110V, the same as in the USA and Canada. However, if you're not from the USA or Canada, you might want to check if your devices need 220V or 110V, then you may need a converter. You can buy these in your home country or in Aruba at hardware stores or supermarkets.

No need to buy water

The tap water in Aruba is of high quality and perfectly safe to drink.

Emergencies

Let's hope it's not necessary, but it's good to know. In case of an emergency, you can call 911 for an ambulance or the fire department and for the police, you can call 100.

Keep in mind to wash your hands frequently, wear your face mask at all times, avoid crowded areas, practice social distance and adhere to all rules and protocols. Have a fun and unforgettable vacation! □

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Medlab Aruba 'fit-2-fly': Covid-19 testing on the island

NOORD — While on vacation, the last thing you need to worry about is what to do or where to go for your COVID-19 testing. Many countries, including the U.S. require for all passengers heading back home to present with a negative test result for PCR or Antigen 72 hours prior to departure.

MEDLAB Aruba is an accredited ISO 15189:2012 OGA-LE 23-08 laboratory with over 30 years of experience on the island. The laboratory complies with the Department of Public Health of Aruba, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requirements for COVID-19 testing. MEDLAB Aruba has been assigned as one of the private laboratories authorized to perform "Fit-2-Fly" testing for departing passengers.

Hassle free scheduling – QR-code

The laboratory has invested on the

only fully integrated digital booking platform on the island that allows guests to pre-register for the testing prior to coming to Aruba and have all their information incorporated upon entry to any of the available testing centers. Guests will receive a confirmation email with QR-code that will be requested upon day of testing to facilitate a faster turn-around time for your results.

Testing options

Offering three method of testing gives you, our island visitors, the possibility to choose which service is at your convenience. Recommended time to complete test prior to departure is 48 (72) hours. We also request for you to bring your passport to the appointment.

Testing Option 1: Walk-In service at our location in Noord Medical Center (NMC), Noord 63 or at Superfood COVID Testing Center. You may also book online at WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM.



COVIDARUBA.COM and choose location.

Testing Option 2: On-site at participating hotels. Only guests staying on these properties will be allowed to conduct the test. Appointment is also made online at WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM.

The participating hotels with testing facilities are Aruba Marriott Resort (Stellaris, Ocean and Surf Club),

Holiday Inn, Playa Linda Beach Resort, RIU Antillas, RIU Palace, Eagle Resort, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Manchebo Beach Resort, Casa del Mar & Aruba Beach Club, Caribbean Palm Village.

Testing Option 3: Airbnb/ Other hotel location. We come to you for the test together with our vehicular Mobile Health Test Unit. We require a minimum of six people for this service. Request/ Book appointment through WhatsApp number +297 5975548.

Price

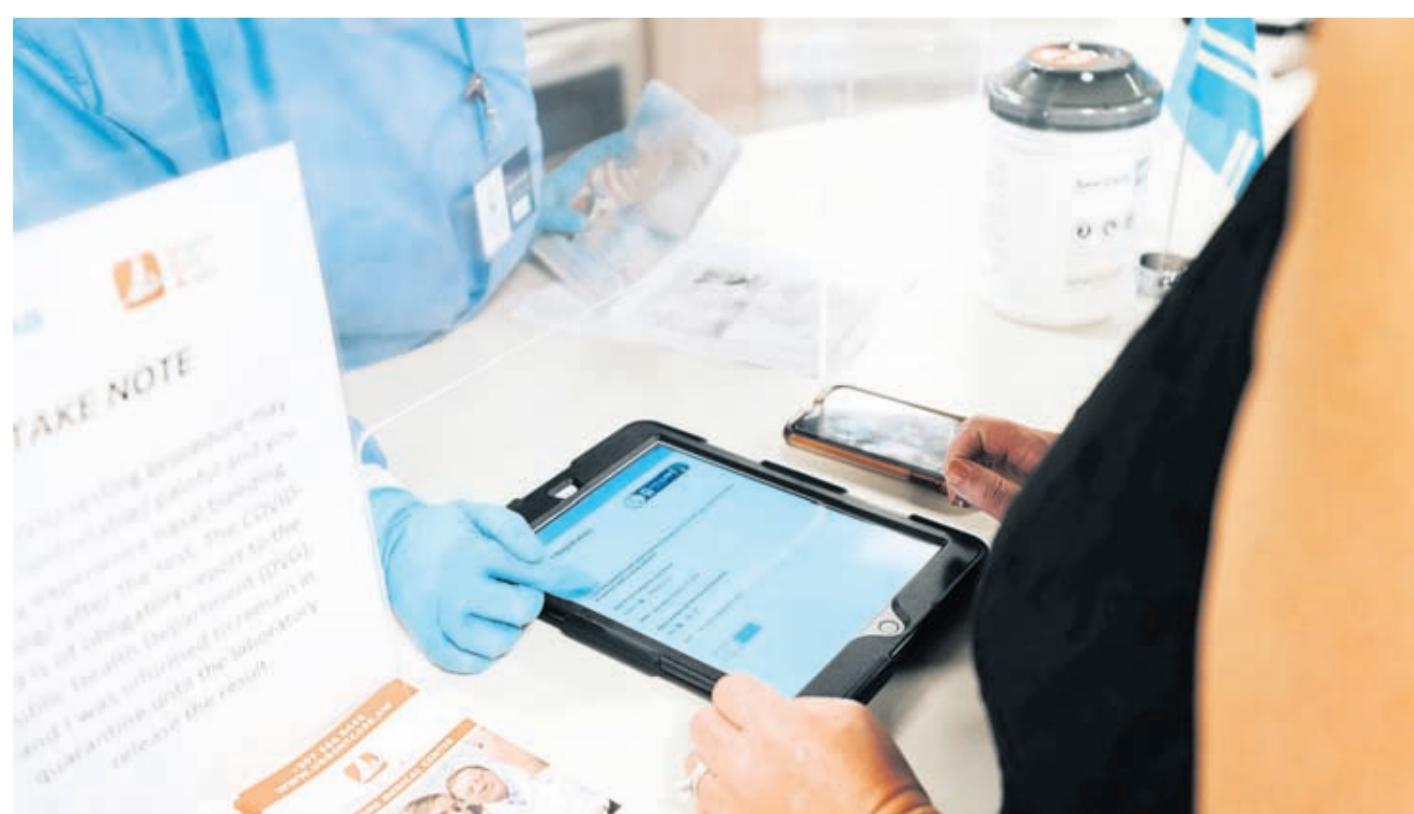
Offering a great rate for the testing. The Antigen test is at \$50 and the PCR at \$100. Payment method is card (preferred), cash (hygiene measures).

The COVID Test is not covered by the Aruba Visitor's Insurance, but you are able to seek reimbursement once back home.

Results

Turn-around time for results is within 24 hours. Result is sent electronically to your email (check spam/ junk folder)

For more information visit www.covidaruba.com, call us at +297 5975548 or email us at covid@lab.aw. □





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NONNA
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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received an amazing story from Nora Cortez and Pedro Cortez from São Paulo, Brazil. They wrote:

Our beloved Aruba!

We don't know when we are going back to Aruba! A country, an island and people that became part of our lives, my wife and I, after more than twenty five years there, spending one or two weeks, but, certainly, not less than ten days, at least twice a year. Aruba was our choice to commemorate my 70th birthday and our 35th anniversary with all the family!

Covid has come and postponed the party. When is nightmare going to finish? When are we going to find out a way to coexist with that virus?

Good signs increase our hope to be again in Aruba very soon. A lot of members of the Marriott's team in Surf, Ocean, Stellaris and Renaissance have gotten so close to us! Time to see them again! All of them have a place in our memories!

We were used to read every morning "Aruba Today" in the shadow of the hut on the beach, during our stays. Nowadays, we access virtually to know about the island and our friends.

Who knows? We have already made our reservations for this year and bought our air tickets. Full of hope to see again the generous Aruba's sunset and all other precious attractions of the island!

Let's keep our fingers crossed.□

COVID-19 high risk countries

ORANJESTAD — According to the Ministerial Regulation of October 25, 2021, all passengers arriving from the following countries must test for COVID-19 before admission to Aruba.

COVID 19 HIGH RISK COUNTRIES

Albania	Israel
Antigua and Barbuda	Jordan
Armenia	Latvia
Austria	Lithuania
Azerbaijan	Luxembourg
Bahamas	Malaysia
Barbados	Maldives
Belarus	Moldova
Belgium	Mongolia
Belize	Montenegro
Bonaire	Netherlands
Bosnia and Herzegovina	North Macedonia
Botswana	Palestine
Brunei	Romania
Bulgaria	Russia
Czech Republic	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Costa Rica	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Croatia	Serbia
Cuba	Seychelles
Curacao	Singapore
Cyprus	Saint Lucia
Denmark	Saint Martin
Dominica	Slovenia
Estonia	Slovakia
Germany	Suriname
Georgia	Thailand
Greece	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	Ukraine
Guyana	Turkey
Iceland	United Kingdom
Iran	United States
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'Stupid' and 'insane': Some billionaires vent over tax plan

By HALELUYA HADERO

AP Business Writer

Elon Musk isn't happy.

With a personal fortune that is flirting with \$300 billion, the Tesla CEO — the richest person on earth — has been attacking a Democratic proposal to tax the assets of billionaires like him.

The idea behind the Democratic plan is to use revenue from a billionaires tax to help pay for a domestic policy package being negotiated in Congress that would, among other things, help combat climate change, provide universal prekindergarten and expand health care programs.

Musk, who recently blew past Amazon founder Jeff Bezos as the world No. 1 in wealth thanks to Tesla's soaring share price, would be liable for perhaps a \$50 billion tax hit under the Democratic proposal.

Forget it, he says.

"My plan," the SpaceX founder tweeted Thursday about his fortune, "is to use the money to get humanity to Mars and preserve the light of consciousness."

He may well get his wish. Prospects for the billionaires tax appear to be dimming fast in Congress. The pivotal Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia is signaling his opposition to the plan along with some others, including some of his fellow Democrats, who have described such a tax as logically impractical.

Earlier this week, Musk argued, the fundamental problem is that government spends too much money — and he warned that the billionaire tax proposal could lead over time to tax hikes for more Americans.

"Eventually," he tweeted Monday, "they run out of other people's money, and then they come for you."

The Democratic proposal, unveiled Wednesday by Sen. Ron Wyden, would tax the gains of people with either \$1 billion or more in assets or three consecutive years of income of \$100 million or more. It would apply to fewer than an estimated 800 people, who would



Tesla CEO Elon Musk departs from the justice center in Wilmington, Del., Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Associated Press

have to pay tax on the value of tradable items, like stocks, even if they don't sell them. Under current law, such assets are subject to tax only when they're sold.

Supporters have said the tax could raise \$200 billion over 10 years that could help fund Biden's legislative priorities. Republicans are unified in opposition to the proposal. And some have suggested it would be challenged in court.

The Democrats' proposal comes against the backdrop of growing concerns about vast economic inequality, with the wealth of many American multi-billionaires having accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks to increased stock and home equity, even more than before the virus struck.

John Catsimatidis, the billionaire grocery chain and real estate magnate who owns Gristedes, condemned the proposal as

something you would "expect Putin to do," referring to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

The billionaire tax plan, Catsimatidis told The Associated Press, is "a little bit insane."

"The American people have reached the point where they're saying, 'Enough is enough,'" said Catsimatidis, who lost a bid for the Republican nomination for New York City mayor in 2013.

"Stop spending the money stupidly. They come up with budgets that are stupid budgets, and they want to make everybody else suffer for it."

"Do we need infrastructure?" Catsimatidis added. "Sure, we need infrastructure. Do we need bridges to nowhere? No, we don't need those."

"You're talking about the people that create the jobs," he said of billionaires. "We can get up and go somewhere else."

Leon Cooperman, the outspoken billionaire investor who has long denounced Sen. Elizabeth Warren's own proposal for a wealth tax, has added his voice to the exasperation coming from some of the uber-wealthy.

In an interview with The Daily Beast, Cooperman said of the tax, "I doubt it's legal, and it's stupid."

"What made America great," he said, "was the people who started with nothing like me making a lot of money and giving it back. A relentless attack on wealthy people makes no sense."

Not every billionaire shares such outrage. A spokesperson for George Soros, the investor and liberal philanthropist, told the AP that Soros is "supportive of the proposed billionaires tax."

And while Warren Buffett has yet to comment publicly on the proposed tax, the billionaire head of Berkshire Hathaway has long called for higher taxes on

the ultra-wealthy like himself.

Bob Lord, a tax lawyer and associate fellow at the progressive think tank Institute for Policy Studies, said that even if this particular proposal doesn't pass, it does reflect how concerns about financial inequality are gathering momentum. ProPublica reported in June that some of the richest Americans have paid no income tax, or nearly none, in some years — including Musk, who, the report said, paid zero income taxes in 2018. Critics argue that Musk's criticism of the billionaire tax proposal overlooks the fact that Tesla's rise has been aided by government incentives and loans.

Lord noted, for example, that the run-up in Tesla stock Monday, after a major order of Teslas from Hertz, increased Musk's wealth by roughly \$37 billion — more than what the IRS collects in estate and gift tax revenue from the entire country in one year.

Wyden's proposal, Lord suggested, might need to close some loopholes.

"But I think they've done a pretty good job with it," he said. "There are folks out there who are saying the billionaires will just put their money into non-publicly traded assets. But it's not going to be that easy. It's a pretty well-crafted bill."

Such tax changes could also shift how billionaire philanthropists make donations.

Brian Mittendorf, a professor of accounting at Ohio State University, said he believes that in the short term, the billionaire proposal would lead some of the uber-wealthy to rush philanthropic contributions into so-called donor-advised funds. Such funds would allow them to receive tax deductions up front without distributing any of the money. (Donors can't get the money back from these funds). "If, in fact, this were to pass," Mittendorf said, "it creates huge incentives to donate some of these assets that have gone up in value before the tax hits." □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Pharaoh

1 Halloween symbols
fliers5 Laments
loudly9 Singer
Lavigne11 Tenny-
son's
"— Arden"13 Poker
action14 Messing
on TV15 Series-
ending
abbr.

16 Stockpiles

18 Gains in
abundance

20 Portly

21 Wandered

22 Show up

23 Blood
color24 Hotel
feature25 Quantities:
Abbr.27 Whirled
weapons

29 Spoil

30 Memory
triggers32 Words of
emphasis

34 Old hand

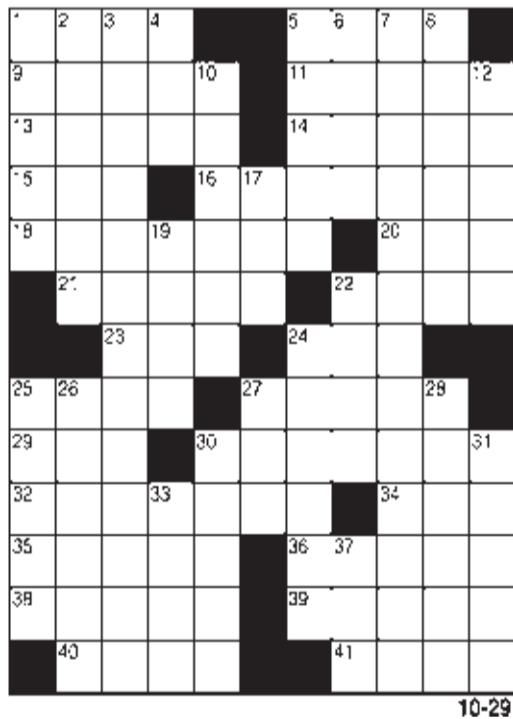
35 Frighten

36 More
robust

38 Think up

39 Wintry
weather

Yesterday's answer

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

G J H G J H N R P W C U R I H E U R
U Q G A J M G V Q Y E P P Q Y V N P
H Q V B P N R P M P R P N B P G J H N
W J B P U Q M U C C P L Y V J Q .

— R J H N L P H Q S Q J K Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO HAVE COURAGE
FOR WHATEVER COMES IN LIFE - EVERYTHING
LIES IN THAT. — SAINT TERESA OF AVILA

Facebook Inc. rebrands as Meta to stress 'metaverse' plan



Seen on the screen of a device in Sausalito, Calif., Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg delivers the keynote address during a virtual event on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2021.

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said his company is rebranding itself as Meta in an effort to encompass its virtual-reality vision for the future — what Zuckerberg calls the "metaverse." Skeptics point out that it also appears to be an attempt to change the subject from the Facebook Papers, a leaked document trove so dubbed by a consortium of news organizations that include The Associated Press. Many of these documents, first described by former Facebook employee-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen, have revealed how Facebook ignored or downplayed internal warnings of the negative and often harmful consequences its algorithms wreaked across the world.

Facebook the app, along with Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger, are here to stay; none will be changing their names. The company's corporate structure also won't change. But on Dec. 1, its shares will start trading under a new ticker symbol, "MVRS."

"Facebook is the world's social media platform and they are being accused of creating something that is harmful to people and society," said marketing consultant Laura Ries. She compared the name Meta to when BP rebranded to "Beyond Petroleum" to escape criticism that it harmed the environment. "They can't walk away from

able to interact, work and create products and content in what he hopes will be a new ecosystem that creates millions of jobs for creators.

The announcement comes amid an existential crisis for Facebook. It faces heightened legislative and regulatory scrutiny in many parts of the world following revelations in the Facebook Papers.

Some of Facebook's biggest critics seemed unimpressed. The Real Facebook Oversight Board, a watchdog group focused on the company, announced that it will keep its own name.

"Changing their name doesn't change reality: Facebook is destroying our democracy and is the world's leading peddler of disinformation and hate," the group said in a statement. "Their meaningless name change should not distract from the investigation, regulation and real, independent oversight needed to hold Facebook accountable."

In explaining the rebrand, Zuckerberg said the name "Facebook" just doesn't encompass everything the company does any more. In addition to its primary social network, that now includes Instagram, Messenger, its Quest VR headset, its Horizon VR platform and more.

"Today we are seen as a social media company," Zuckerberg said. "But in our DNA we are a company that builds technology to connect people."

A corporate rebranding won't solve the myriad problems at Facebook revealed by thousands of internal documents in recent weeks. It probably won't even get people to stop calling the social media giant Facebook — or a "social media giant," for that matter.

But that isn't stopping Zuckerberg, seemingly eager to move on to his next big thing as crisis after crisis emerges at the company he created. □

China offers few new climate targets ahead of U.N. conference

By CHRISTINA LARSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — China is offering no significant new goals for reducing climate-changing emissions ahead of the UN climate summit set to start next week in Glasgow.

China, the world's top emitter of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses that cause global warming, formally submitted its goals Thursday.

The highly-anticipated announcement includes targets previously established in speeches by President Xi Jinping and domestic policy documents.

China says it aims to reach peak emissions of carbon dioxide — which is produced mainly through burning coal, oil and natural gas for transportation, electric power and manufacturing — "before 2030."

The country is aiming for "carbon neutrality" — no net emissions of CO2 — before 2060.

"It's not surprising, but it is disappointing that there wasn't anything new" in terms of goals, said Joanna Lewis, an expert in China, climate and energy at Georgetown University.

Lewis said the document released today "gave more detail about China will meet those goals," however, by measures including increasing its wind and solar power capacity, as well as carbon-absorbing forest cover. Climate experts say key questions about China's future carbon emissions remain unanswered.

"The document gives no answers on the major open questions about the country's emissions," said Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air in Helsinki. "At what level will emissions peak and how fast should they fall after the peak?"

Nations participating in the UN climate conference, known as the 26th Conference of Parties, or COP26, submit what are called "nationally determined contributions" that lay out emissions reduction plans.



In this Wednesday, April 21, 2021 file photo, smoke and steam rise from towers at the coal-fired Urumqi Thermal Power Plant in Urumqi in western China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

Associated Press

It's still possible that China may have additional announcements at the climate summit related to financing for renewable energy overseas, said Lewis.

Sam Geall, CEO of nonprofit China Dialogue and associate fellow at Chatham House in London said China's pledge is "consistent with everything that we've seen from Xi Jinping's previous statements."

He and other experts are concerned that pledges on emissions targets and also on financial support

to help reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate, especially for developing countries, "are coming in far too late, far too small."

China's NDC is "consistent with everything that we've seen from Xi Jinping's previous statements," said Sam Geall, CEO of nonprofit China Dialogue and associate fellow at Chatham House in London.

"It may not be enough to get us to 1.5 degrees, which is where we want to go," he said, referring to the target set under the

Paris Agreement of keeping global warming under 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels.□

ARUBA TODAY

BONDIA

How to reach us!

Map labels include: Weststraat, Scheepstraat, Caya G.F. Belico Croes, Caya G.J., Royal Palace Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard, Weststraat, High Rise Hotels, and Bus terminal.

Downtown



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
St. Cruz Tel. 585 8028
San Nicolas:
Aloe Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia	Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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Gordon Ramsay's social media project culminates in cookbook

NEW YORK (AP) — How did Gordon Ramsay spend his pandemic lockdown? Getting frenetic in a kitchen, of course.

The chef with a dizzying number of books, restaurants and TV shows was home in Cornwall, England, with mouths to feed last year when he did a series of lives on Instagram cooking meals in 10 minutes or less. The fast-moving endeavor he began on YouTube the year before culminated in "Ramsay in 10," his latest cookbook filled with recipes made against the clock.

"There's so much fun to be had in cooking food that doesn't need to take 60 or 70 minutes at a time," he told The Associated Press in a recent interview on Zoom from Los Angeles. "'Ramsay in 10' was a bit of a miracle because it's the first time in 20 years anyone's ever said to me, 'Stop. Time out.'"

The world is used to seeing a sped-up — and sometimes terrifying — Ramsay, saving failing restaurants, judging chefs competing for prize money, scaling Sicilian cliffs in search of the perfect octopus. But it's not used to seeing him run around his own kitchen surrounded by his wife, Tana Ramsay, and their kids, ranging from 2 to 23.

The Instagram lives tickled



This photo shows chef, TV personality and author Gordon Ramsay preparing tuna katsu in London in March.

Associated Press

thousands of fans with the rare treat of seeing Ramsay cook in real time.

"No passports. No flights. No schedule," he said of the shutdown. "You're not filming. You're staying home and you're cooking breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you told me that two years ago, I'd never have believed you. We had to get super creative and go quick and easy and uncomplicated."

He had the pandemic's strains on families top of mind.

"Every doctor and nurse

was on their knees, and every hospital was bursting with anxiety and pressure," Ramsay said. "And so what I wanted to do was to take that pressure off."

Among his 100 recipes made in a flash: a humble omelet elevated with mozzarella and shiitake mushrooms, and another with fish sauce and shrimp. There's a one-pan pumpkin pasta with amaretti biscuits and lemon thyme, and a quick smoked haddock kedgeree using pre-cooked rice.

Ramsay filled his book —

his 31st — with shortcuts and tips on how to stock a pantry and fridge for home cooks on the go. He calls these recipes fast food at its finest — not quicker than a frozen meal tossed into a microwave but faster than a takeout delivery. And he gives home cooks grace on the clock, acknowledging his status as a seasoned pro.

"The way I used to write cookbooks was thinking I'm going to be judged by every chef on the planet. The recipes were laden with 152 ingredients. Cooking at

home is completely different, and I've learned that so much more," Ramsay said.

His "Ramsay in 10" is out Nov. 2 from Hachette Book Group.

At home, it's usually Tana who does the cooking.

"She is an amazing home cook," he said. "That's the first time I've properly cooked at home. It's like running a restaurant where no one went home."

The 54-year-old Ramsay seems ever-present on streaming and TV networks in the U.K. and U.S. With his own production company, the shows keep coming. There's "Hell's Kitchen," "MasterChef" and "MasterChef Jr.," "Kitchen Nightmares" and "The F Word," to name a few. His latest, "Next Level Chef," is set to premiere on Fox in January with line cooks, home chefs, social media stars and food truck owners competing to be crowned culinary king or queen.

Among his reasons for taking to television as long ago as 1997 was to promote his restaurants. With seven Michelin stars, Ramsay now has 50 restaurants scattered around the world. And he's thankful all survived the pandemic. His latest is due to open at the end of the year in Edinburgh.□

California high court won't hear Brad Pitt divorce appeal



This file photo combination shows Angelina Jolie at a premiere in Los Angeles on Sept. 30, 2019, left, and Brad Pitt at a special screening on Sept. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The California Supreme Court on Wednesday re-

fused to consider Brad Pitt's appeal of a court ruling that disqualified the

judge in his custody battle with Angelina Jolie.

The court denied a review of a June appeals court decision that said the private judge hearing the case should be disqualified for failing to sufficiently disclose his business relationships with Pitt's attorneys. The state Supreme Court's decision finalizes that ruling. It means the fight over the couple's five minor children — which was nearing an end — could just be getting started.

"Ms. Jolie is focused on her family and pleased that her children's wellbeing will not be guided by unethical behavior," her attor-

ney, Robert Olson, said in an email.

Pitt's attorney had previously argued that Jolie's effort to disqualify the judge was aimed at preventing his tentative custody decision, which was favorable to Pitt, from taking effect.

A statement from a representative for Pitt on Wednesday said the Supreme Court decision "does not change the extraordinary amount of factual evidence which led the trial judge — and the many experts who testified — to reach their clear conclusion about what is in the children's best interests."

Jolie, 46, and Pitt, 57, were

among Hollywood's most prominent couples for 12 years. A former Los Angeles County Superior Court judge, John Onderkirk, officiated at their 2014 wedding, then was hired to oversee their divorce when Jolie filed to dissolve the marriage in 2016.

He ruled the couple divorced in 2019, but he separated the child custody issues.

Jolie and Pitt have six children: 20-year-old Maddox, 17-year-old Pax, 16-year-old Zahara, 15-year-old Shiloh, 13-year-old Vivienne and 13-year-old Knox. Only the five minors are subject to custody decisions.□

Atlanta tries to transform itself into Winnersville

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Columnist

Stephen King could've written "Misery" about an Atlanta sports fan.

That would've been a truly horrifying tale.

From Jim Leyritz to 28-3, from DeVonta Smith to losing not one, but two NHL teams to western Canada, Georgia's sports history is filled with knee-buckling heartache, epic meltdowns and, yes, plenty of misery.

But now, as the World Series comes to Atlanta for the first time since 1999, there is hope that this city — once immortalized in print as "Loserville USA" — and this state could be taking a turn toward some long-overdue parades.

The young, hungry Hawks are just a few months removed from a surprising run to the NBA's Eastern Conference final. The fearsome Georgia Bulldogs are the No. 1 college football team in all the land. And the Braves just ended their 22-year Series drought by knocking off the 106-win Dodgers.

Heck, even the woe-be-gone Falcons — who haven't had a winning NFL season since 2017 — are at .500 and hopeful of joining the party.

"I'm so happy for all those guys with the Braves," Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan said. "Talk about a team that grinded through a year. I don't think they were above .500 until the middle of August and find themselves in the World Series. So maybe we can draw a little inspiration from that."

The Braves remain the city's lone professional champion in the four major sports — baseball, football, basketball and hockey. (Side note: Atlanta United did win the MLS Cup title in 2018, but soccer remains a notch below the Big Four in this country.)

Even that solitary Atlanta title in 1995 would eventually be overshadowed by all the close-but-no-cigar calls the Braves had in a single decade of nearly annual World Series appearances. 1991. 1992. 1996. 1999.

Losses, all of them.

None was more painful than '96, when the Braves won the first two games at Yankee Stadium by a combined score of 16-1, only to lose three straight at home and eventually the series when it returned to New York.

The decisive blow still lingers in the city's collective psyche, a persistent reminder that all glory is fleeting in the A-T-L. The Braves led 6-0 in Game 4, seemingly cruising toward a commanding lead in the series, but Leyritz hit a three-run homer off a hanging slider from closer Mark Wohlers that carried the Yankees to an improbable 7-6 victory. Any hopes of a second straight title were effectively snuffed out that very night.

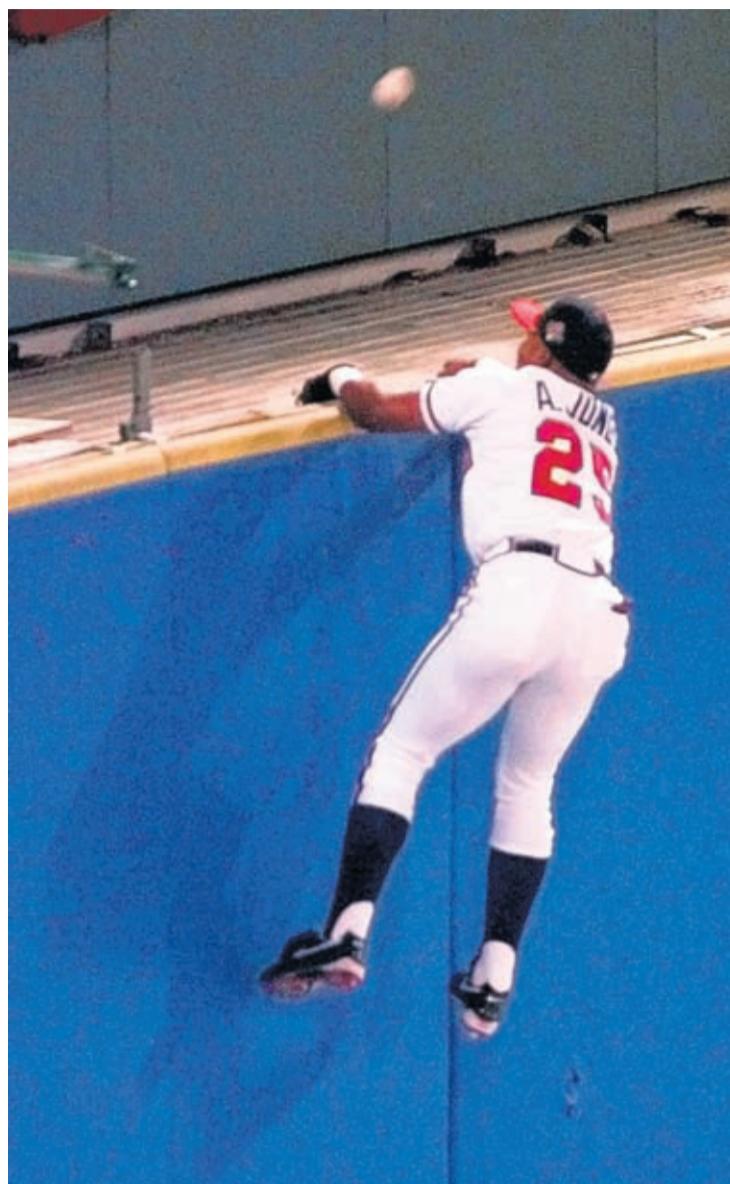
To this day, the franchise remains scarred by not only that game, but its extensive history of postseason flops. Starting with that magical worst-to-first season in 1991, the Braves have captured 19 division titles — 14 of them in a row, a streak that may never be matched — and made 21 playoff appearances overall.

With the results of 2021 still be determined — the Series against the Houston Astros is tied at one win apiece — the Braves are 1-for-20 over the past three decades when it comes to winning it all.

During the NL Championship Series, Braves star Freddie Freeman talked about a quest to "kill that narrative" — meaning, the repetitive, unending queries about Atlanta's glaring dearth of championships.

Freeman is a native Californian who has lived full-time in Atlanta for about a decade. That's more than enough time to get a good feel for what long-time fans have been experiencing since Major League Baseball and the NFL arrived simultaneously in 1966, followed two years later by the NBA Hawks and in 1972 by the NHL Flames.

Just during Freeman's time in Atlanta, the Falcons infamously squandered a 28-3 lead to the New England Patriots and lost the only



In this Oct. 23, 1996, file photo, Atlanta Braves' left fielder Andruw Jones can't get to the home run hit by the New York Yankees' Jim Leyritz in the eighth inning of Game 4 of baseball's World Series in Atlanta.

Associated Press

overtime game in Super Bowl history, the Bulldogs blew a 13-point lead in the national championship game and fell to Alabama on Smith's 41-yard touchdown catch in overtime, the Hawks came up short in two trips to the Eastern Conference final, and the Braves surrendered a 3-1 lead to the Dodgers in last year's NLCS.

Freeman even remembers the Thrashers, the city's second NHL team. Beset by poor attendance and indifferent ownership, they moved to Winnipeg in 2011 — making Atlanta the only city in hockey's modern era to lose two NHL franchises. The Flames, for those who have forgotten, lasted eight years before moving to Calgary in 1980. Neither of Atlanta's NHL teams ever won a Stanley Cup playoff series, combining for a 2-19 mark in postseason games. Probably a good thing they

both moved on.

Freeman, meanwhile, has put down roots.

"You start spending six, seven, eight months in the city, you start getting connected," Freeman said. "Next thing you know, you have a son born in Atlanta, and you just become part of the city. I've been here a long time, and you start caring about other teams, other sports, and the people in that city and that state of Georgia."

"I care a lot," he went on. "I did watch the Super Bowl. I watched all that kind of stuff. It would only be right to be brought up when we had what we had to deal with last year (in losing to the Dodgers in the NLCS). So I'm glad we were able to get past that point. This city means a lot. Hopefully, we can bring a championship home to them."

The most promising sign that things are truly chang-

ing in Atlanta is all the dynamic young stars who now call the city home.

Ronald Acuña Jr. of the Braves (though, sadly, he can only watch this Series as he recovers from a season-ending knee injury). Trae Young of the Hawks. Kyle Pitts of the Falcons. Acuña is 23, a few months older than Young. Pitts just turned 21.

Young, more than anyone, seems to sense he is part of something bigger — a chance to alter, once and for all, the way folks perceive his adopted city.

"We've got everything," said Young, who grew up in Oklahoma but has taken to wearing an "Atlanta Georgia Changed My Life" shirt. "We've got a lot of really good guys and really good sports teams in this city, and we all want to make the city proud."

Another of the Hawks' young stars, John Collins, can foresee a time when parades down Peachtree Street are a regular thing. "Atlanta's an amazing city to be in," he said. "When it's playoff time, you can see the rush from the fans and the excitement from the true Atlanta fans, ready to support their team, ready to see us win."

"I always envision us going down Peachtree with the Larry O'Brien," he added, referring to the trophy that is awarded to the NBA champion. "I'm hoping the Braves can do the same."

Maybe it's time to write a new story.

How does "Winnersville" sound? □

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NFL enhances Rooney Rule to help interviewing process

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL has instituted some policy changes to the Rooney Rule designed to further enhance diversity, equity and inclusion in hiring practices.

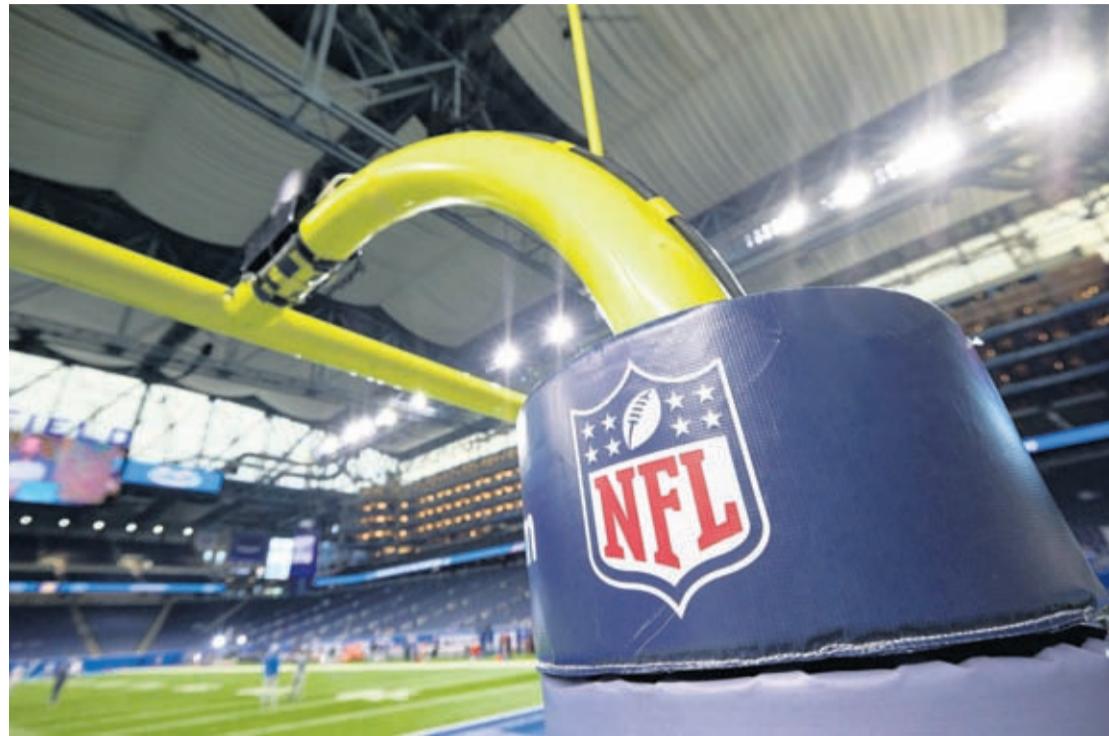
The rule has been expanded to require teams to interview at least two external minority candidates for general manager/executive of football operations positions, and all coordinator roles. Beforehand, the requirement was to interview one minority from outside a team for openings in those positions.

Openings for head coaches already fell under such requirements.

NFL clubs now must conduct an in-person interview for at least one external minority candidate for any head coach or general manager opening. All coordinator and assistant general manager candidates can be interviewed virtually, but in-person interviews are being encouraged.

"League and club leadership must reflect America's diversity," Jonathan Beane, the NFL's senior vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer, and Fritz Pollard Alliance Executive Director Rod Graves said in a statement.

"We've been discussing these improvements jointly for months because they will move the game and



In this Aug. 13, 2021, file photo, an NFL logo is displayed on a goal post pad during an NFL pre-season football game between the Buffalo Bills and Detroit Lions in Detroit.

Associated Press

business of football toward inclusivity — and make league and club workplaces welcoming for everyone. "There is still much more work to do to ensure that the outstanding candidate pipeline, which is as strong as it's ever been, finds opportunities consistent with their immense talent. The policies announced ... are another important step toward those goals."

Beane stresses the importance of ensuring the pipeline is strong with minority coaches and overall.

"Ensuring everyone gets an opportunity, a look," he says. "When you have a diverse slate and have more

than one minority or diverse candidate ... the chance of a candidate being interviewed who is diverse goes up exponentially. Maximize the opportunities, and we also wanted to make sure there wasn't a case where there was only one candidate who is diverse who is being interviewed. Research shows a lot of times there could be bias in the opportunity for that person to get hired and have a role."

Beane emphasized the importance of feedback after such interviews, regardless who the candidate is. "One of the things the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Committee recommended and enacted is on the issue of feedback," he explains. "We're not mandating feedback, but strongly encouraging all clubs to do that. Someone who is interviewed for a role but doesn't get it, it is important for them to get that feedback to have for the next opportunity they get." The mechanisms for interviewing head coaching candidates also have been changed. Teams will be allowed to interview for such a position during the final two weeks of the regular season with the consent of the employer club — as long as the head coaching

job is vacant. Those interviews can be done virtually.

Of course, there are no restrictions for candidates not employed by any NFL teams.

The NFL also is creating additional education and training sessions on sexual harassment, discrimination and diversity, equity and inclusion in the wake of the investigation into workplace improprieties with the Washington Football Team.

"We have to stay committed to having a safe and welcoming environment for everyone," Beane says.

"We have to stay committed to doing active and continual training. ... This is not something we will ever not have a lack of urgency on."

"The latest things have brought to light the importance of this work, and this is the opportunity for the NFL to really step up and be the example. We are not always going to be perfect, but we will strive to be, and we will always have a plan to move forward."

"We must stay focused, being committed to our communities, to all people, to show football really is for everyone. When someone walks into our offices they have to feel that sense of belonging. When we don't provide that, that is when we have to continue to have this type of commitment." □

U.S. qualifier Tiafoe upsets Tsitsipas to reach Vienna quarter



Stefanos Tsitsipas, of Greece, returns a shot to Pedro Martinez, of Spain, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — American qualifier Frances Tiafoe

rallied to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 at the Erste Bank Open Thursday for his second win in four months over the top-seeded Greek.

Tiafoe upset Tsitsipas in straight sets in the opening round at Wimbledon in June, but failed to win a set when the pair met again at the Tokyo Olympics the following month. However, the 49th-ranked American proved his triumph at the All England Club was no fluke, as he battled back from 3-0 down in the final set to

win six of the next seven games.

Thursday's win was Tiafoe's first in seven matches against a top-three player, as Tsitsipas reached his career-high No. 3 ranking in August.

The result denied Tsitsipas a tour-leading 15th quarterfinal of the season.

In his fourth quarterfinal of the year, Tiafoe will take on Diego Schwartzman, who outlasted Gael Monfils 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-2.

Second-seeded Alexander Zverev defeated Alex De Minaur 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 for

the German's 300th career win. "This is definitely a massive milestone for me," said Zverev, who next plays Felix Auger-Aliassime.

The sixth-seeded Canadian saved three match points before beating Britain's Cameron Norrie 2-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4 in match between two contenders for the remaining tickets to the ATP Finals in Turin next month.

Jannik Sinner stretched his indoor winning streak to 10 matches and 20 sets by defeating Dennis Novak of Austria 6-4, 6-2. □